



Seattle Initiates Water Shortage Contingency Plan

Citizens Asked to Use Water Wisely

The lack of precipitation we are experiencing this winter season has had a dramatic impact on snow pack in the mountains. Governor Christine Gregoire declared a statewide drought emergency last week, citing that all areas of our state will likely experience at least some level of drought this year. While our mountain reservoir water storage levels are normal for this time of year, current snow pack estimates in Cedar and Tolt watersheds are below record low levels. We are increasingly concerned about our declining reservoir elevations and our water supply outlook.

On Wednesday Mayor Nickels directed SPU to issue a water shortage advisory and to urge citizens and business to use water wisely. We have activated [SPU's Water Shortage Contingency](#) Plan effective immediately. The Advisory stage is the first step of the plan, which provides guidelines for managing our water supply and demand. We will continue to monitor and track conditions, moving to voluntary and other stages if conditions worsen.

We have already changed our water management strategy to capture more water than normal during the flood season and we are taking steps to maximize our water storage for the peak water use season.

While we did increase flows in the Cedar River earlier this season to benefit fish, the increasingly dry conditions have forced us to reduce flows to fill reservoirs for later in the season. If dry conditions

persist and we are forced to maintain reduced flows, there may be impacts to incubating steelhead and trout eggs during the summer and spawning salmon during the fall.

We are asking our customers to follow these tips to ensure that they use water wisely at home and at work:

- Don't leave faucets running
- Only wash full loads of dishes and clothes
- Fix leaking toilets and faucets
- Wash cars at locations that recycle water
- Visit www.savingwater.org or call 684-SAVE for more water-wise tips

We will continue to review our water supply conditions weekly. We encourage you to visit our [online water supply web site](#) for the most current information about conditions.



Water Quality Technical Forum Report

Chlorine Residual and Coliform Data from February 2005

There were no positive coliform samples in purveyor areas during February 2005. Average chlorine residual concentrations in the purveyor distribution systems ranged from 0.3 to 1.0 mg/L, with an overall average of 0.7 mg/L. The target chlorine residual at the Tolt Treatment facility is 1.5 mg/L and the Cedar target residual is 1.3 mg/L. Although some purveyors have been experiencing low chlorine levels, the bacteriological quality of the water remains excellent.

Taste and Odor

The taste and odor panel is now meeting every other week. Samples are rated on a scale from 1 to 9, with 1 representing the best and 9 representing the worst. The taste and odor flavor rating assessment (FRA) for the most recent Cedar supply (Lake Youngs treated) sample was 2.4 and is described as slightly chlorinous and plastic. The Tolt supply was 1.8 with a chlorinous taste. If you would like to receive a weekly update of the taste and odor panel results, please e-mail Moya Joubert at moya.joubert@seattle.gov.

Cedar Supply Water Quality

Typical for this season, Lake Youngs has begun to experience an algal bloom. The new treatment facilities are effectively reducing the taste and odor associated with the algae. However, customers with home filtration units may notice more rapid filter clogging due to the algae in the water.

Lead and Copper

The first round of lead and copper samples for 2005 is being collected February through May. The next round of samples will be collected in the second half of the year. Starting this year, there are four separate compliance areas for the Lead and Copper Rule: Cedar wholesale customers, Tolt wholesale customers, City of Bellevue service area, and City of Seattle service area. This change was made at the request of the Department of Health and is based on the normal source of supply to each area.

SPU Contact: Wylie Harper, 206 684-7880 or Lynn Kirby, 206 684-0216.

will allow our water conservation outreach to garner excellent reach and frequency throughout the year at the lowest prices per spot we have ever achieved. The contract includes banner advertising on the home pages of KOMO, KPLZ, KING FM and KVI radio stations. In addition, the contract also includes participation in a special Search engine, offered on each of the station's home pages, which will direct visitors to our programs when certain key words are entered.

CONTACT: Cornell Amaya (206) 386-1170

YOUTH EDUCATION

Revised Shared Waters Activity Books Now Available

A revised and updated version of the popular "Shared Waters" student activity book is now available. The new version has more regional links in the activities that involve age 7-11 kids in learning how they can help fish and the environment by saving water. Based on the original artwork, the book again features host Bert the Salmon who provides information mixed with fun activities. New definitions and answer key pages have been included to increase understanding and provide feedback. Shared Waters booklets can be used in conjunction with school outreach programs and public events.

CONTACT: Mike Mercer, (206) 684-0570

RESIDENTIAL INDOOR

Multifamily Toilet Program Moves Into High Gear

The Multifamily Toilet Replacement Program has attracted many new applicants since the \$80 rebate/free toilet options became available in December. The higher rebate is driven in part by Seattle's low-income assistance program, which is paying 100% of the incremental cost in Seattle. Over the past three months, apartment building owners have applied for the replacement of over 3,200 toilets. Over 90% of the applicants have chosen the free toilet option. The first of these projects are just beginning to finish their fixture replacement.

CONTACT: David Broustis (206) 684-4150



Conservation Technical Forum

On the web at <http://www.savingwater.org>
MARKETING

Radio Advertising with Fisher Broadcasting
We have been able to negotiate an outstanding radio ad contract with Fisher Broadcasting that

WashWise Encourages Higher Efficiency

As of January, the WashWise clothes washer rebate program has been re-tooled to provide the highest incentive, \$100, to customers who purchase super-efficient (three star) machines. One and two star machines qualify for \$25 and \$50 rebates, respectively. There is now a large selection of super-efficient (three star) machines. These super-efficient machines can reduce utility bills by up to \$140 each year, compared to about \$60 for WashWise qualified one star machines. CONTACT: David Broustis (206) 684-4150

2005 Toilet Recycling Update

In 2005 the SWP plans to focus the limited resources dedicated to toilet recycling on establishing operations in the new Sand Point location and fine tuning operations at the existing location at Seattle's South Transfer Station. In 2004, while looking for a way to offer a more convenient toilet recycling location for the northern part of our service area, the support the collection and recycling of toilets at recycling events throughout the SWP area. This year the SWP will not assist those events. CONTACT: Mialee Jose (206) 615-1452

Pilot Showerhead Distribution Program to Launch

In the 3rd quarter of this year SWP will launch a pilot Showerhead and Aerator Replacement Program in Highline Water District. The pilot will inform us about customer participation, water savings, and service delivery to determine regional implementation potential. An evaluation of the pilot will be complete at the end of the year. CONTACT: Arece Hampton (206) 733-9137

RESIDENTIAL LANDSCAPE

Plant List Guide

The Plant List launch was a great success with lots of interest and over 13,000 handed out at the Flower & Garden Show. There have been many calls to the Natural Lawn & Garden Hotline requesting copies. Staff was invited to make a presentation to Molbak's staff at their semi-annual

training function. Staff was enthusiastic about the size, look and format as well as the content, and feel it will be very useful for customers.

CONTACT: Nota Lucas (206) 684-5855

Contingency Planning

With the continuing sunny weather it seems prudent to plan around the possibilities of a summer drought. One initial step is to prepare a fact sheet on how to drought proof a garden, to be available through the Natural Lawn & Garden Hotline. This will be shared with purveyors. Other planning is underway. CONTACT: Nota Lucas (206) 684-5855

Gardening Classes for Dry Summers & Laid Back Gardeners

With the release of The Plant List, we are offering eleven classes to inspire and educate gardeners about specific plants that will thrive in their gardens with little to no water after establishment. The majority of these classes will take place April through May (the peak of plant buying season), but a few will occur in fall (the best time to plant). Staff is trying to host these classes across the service area, but we need purveyor involvement. If you want greater class attendance from your customers, please call Liz Fikejs. Liz may be able to set up a class in your area. We will also have a direct mail flier announcing the classes. If you maintain lists of customers who garden or would be interested in gardening, please contact Liz by March 18 so that we can print enough fliers for you to mail to your customers. Finally, you can help spread the word about these classes by announcing them on your website, bill inserts and/or newsletters. A link will be up on savingwater.org by Mid-March. Contact: Liz Fikejs, 206-615-0516.

COMMERCIAL

Medical Sterilizer Program

Our Medical Sterilizer Rebate special is due to end March 1, 2005 and has been a tremendous

success. The final totals are not yet in, but estimated savings are in the 100,000 gpd range. SPU staff estimate that up to 75% of the potential sterilizer retrofits will have been completed. As of March 1st the program reverted back to 50% of installation cost.

CONTACT: Phil Paschke (206) 684-5883

The Water Efficient Irrigation Programs

We are selecting marketing venues for the “Over-watering” campaign and additional irrigation related outreach. Most likely, WEIP will target high water users and backflow customers with directmail pieces for rain sensor rebates and information about the new irrigation scheduling website at iwms.org. Wholesale customers should plan to develop three directmail customer lists for the irrigation rebate program; residential high water

users (over .5 CCF differential per day during peak), customers who receive backflow inspections, and commercial customers with irrigation meters. CONTACT: Jenna Smith (206) 684-5955

Irrigation Vendors Come to Seattle

Evapotranspiration and soil moisture sensor irrigation vendors have been asked to demonstrate their products in the Seattle area. In order to promote these technologies in our area, I've provided landscape and irrigation contractors a list of vendors who would be willing to provide discounts on demonstrated properties. An informal evaluation will occur at the end of the year to gather customer satisfaction information about the products and to create a marketing piece for the program.

CONTACT: Jenna Smith, (206) 684-5955



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